Effectiveness of Money Laundering Investigation in Combating Transnational Crime

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Brookings
A Comparison Study
U.S. and Hong Kong

• Assess effectiveness in combating transnational crime

• Compare the two regimes to identify respective strengths and weaknesses
Organized Crime

• Transnational
• Mobile
• Efficient
• Secretive
• Exploitation of Jurisdictional Incompatibilities
Effective Law Enforcement

- Crime
- People
- Money
Areas of Assessment

• Money Laundering Offences
• Asset Forfeiture Regimes
• Investigative Powers, Practices and Techniques
• Financial Intelligence Capability
• Domestic Collaboration
• International Cooperation
Highlights of Findings

- The money laundering offences in the U.S. are very restrictive whereas those of HK are robust.

- The asset forfeiture regime of the U.S. is comprehensive whereas that of Hong Kong is limited.
Conclusions

• The U.S. is good at going after the “Money” but may not be good at going after the “People.”

• HK is good at going after the “People” but may not be good at going after the “Money.”

• Superiority

• Effectiveness
Recommendations

**U.S.**
- Widen the scope of its money offences

**HK**
- Review its asset forfeiture regime

**FATF**
- Recommendations and Evaluation Methodology

**UNATOC**
- Evaluation and sanction mechanism
Thank You

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